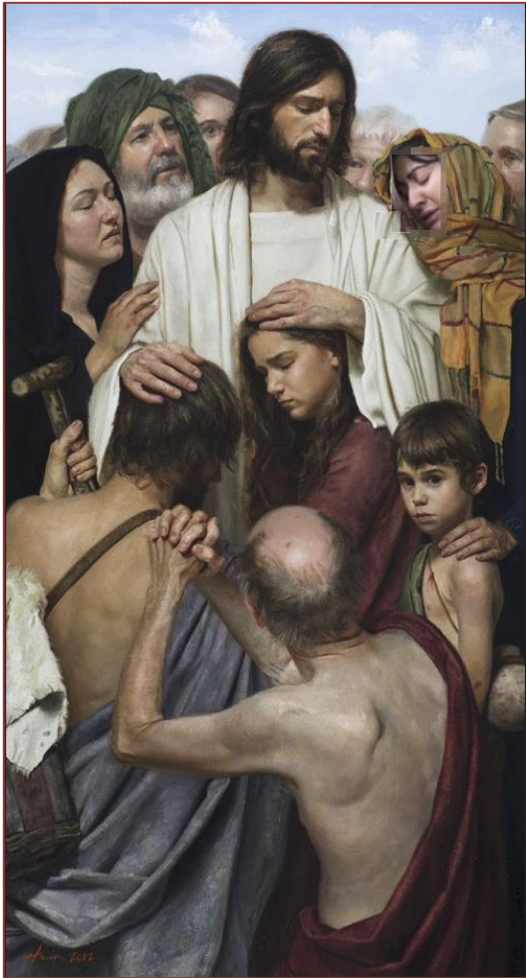


TYBURN NEWSLETTER

TYBURN MONASTERY COR, JESU FONS VITAE, 74 DODS RD. NGAKURU RDI, ROTORUA 3077 073332378 www.tyburnmonastery.co.nz
SACRED HEART 2022



Dear Friends,

On many occasions the Gospels tell us how the crowds came to Jesus and pressed around him so he might heal them. Once we read that the crowd was so great that Our Lord tells his disciples to get a boat ready lest the crowd should crush him; for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. These people turn to Christ in their need. **He attends to them because he has a compassionate and merciful heart.** “Jesus, who became man in every respect except sin, experienced a full range of human emotions” (CCC 478) And he continues today to have a merciful and loving Heart for all people. To the mystic Gabrielle Bossis, Jesus said “Every soul is my favourite...I choose some that I may reach others”. (He and I) During the three years of His ministry on earth, He has healed many, freed those possessed by the devil, he raised the dead... “Yet he did not heal all the sick people in the world, nor did he remove all the sufferings of this life, for pain is not an absolute evil, as sin is, and it can have an incomparable redemptive value, if we unite it to the sufferings of Christ.” (F.Fernandes)

As I began this letter we received the unexpected news that our dear Mother Mary Christina had been called to the Lord on the 22nd of May. Many of you may remember her as one of the founding sisters of our community here. She was a humble and joyful soul, and always kept a special fondness for her own country and people of the Philippines. With a great love for our Lady, her favourite occupation was making rosaries, and it was beautiful to hear that earlier on the day she died, their chaplain, Fr John Rizzo, had led a short ceremony of the crowning of our Lady, which M.Christina loved. A short story which some of us had not heard was that on the day that Mother Cyril (former saintly Prioress and Novice Mistress in Australia) made her Profession - 21 November 1957, she prayed that someone would be born who would enter our Congregation. Mother Christina was born on 27 November, 1957, and she became her first Australian daughter. Now we hope they are reunited in Heaven! May our dear Mother rest in peace and continue to pray for us here below.

How wonderful is our Catholic faith which allows us to feel peace and even happiness when one of our loved ones, faithful to the Lord, dies! As Covid19 variants continue to affect people in our country and abroad, and some go home to Heaven, we as Christians, are able to live without fear, knowing that we are in the merciful hands of God and that, as St Paul says “*Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s*”. A quote from St Simeon is used in the Byzantine tradition: “*we sing for his departure from this life and separation from us, but also because there is a communion and reunion. For even dead, we are not at all separated from one another, because we all run the same*





Seen in the sky above Sydney in January 2022

course and we will find one another again in the same place. We shall never be separated, for we live for Christ, and now we are united with Christ as we go toward him...we shall all be together in Christ" (CCC1690)

Our own Tyburn Martyrs are a great example of faith in the afterlife, and the Office celebrating them on May 4th each year sounds like a party! Despite the fact that they were facing the barbaric death of being hung, drawn and quartered, we sing quotes taken from them on the scaffold like "This is the happiest day and the greatest joy that ever befell me, for I am brought hither for no other cause or reason, than that I am a Roman Catholic priest and a monk of the order of St Benedict" said Bl. Philip Powel. The priest Edward Morgan was so very happy at the time of his martyrdom that the minister accompanying him was scandalized and rebuked him for being cheerful at such a moment. This martyr replied "Why should anyone be offended at my going to heaven cheerfully? For God loves a cheerful giver." They encourage us to realize that with the grace of God, we can endure all things joyfully for the sake of Christ. Yet the good Lord also sends us many joys also, as we pray in Psalm 90 "Give us joy to balance our affliction"!

CELEBRATIONS - PLATINUM JUBILEE



The beginning of the year brought us the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of our Mother Placid at the age of 96. She was born in the same year as Queen Elizabeth, and must have made her profession in the same year that Elizabeth was crowned, since she also is celebrating a Platinum jubilee this year! It is rare to experience this Jubilee as one has to enter young and live a long time! And Mother Placid is still able to dance! Now Mother is looking forward to reaching 100 and getting a letter from the Queen! (Who would also be 100)



VISITORS AND OBLATES

This year we have continued to welcome people from all over NZ for retreats and periods of quiet time out. Now that the borders are open there may be more visitors from abroad also. In January we had the



pleasure of welcoming newly ordained Fr Thomas Park from the Auckland diocese celebrating Holy Mass for us during one week, assisted by deacon Adam Kirkeby from our own diocese. Later in the year Fr Isaac also visited us to say Mass and give us his blessing. We thank God for these young men who have heard and listened to God's call in these difficult times and we

must all pray for their continued fidelity to Christ throughout their lives.

In December last year, it was a joy to see Sr Francesca and Sr Philomena making their profession as oblates, and at the end of January this year was an oblate meeting during which Mel Adriatico was received as a novice oblate. Due to the Auckland lockdowns, he had been kept in waiting for some time, so it was a special blessing to at last be free to come for this event. He took the name of Br Gerard which seemed very appropriate for these times when many Catholics had been deprived of the Eucharist.



St Gerard was a great lover of the Eucharist and at one time was falsely accused of terrible sins and so was not allowed to receive Holy Communion. No other trial that could have been devised would have been comparable to this trial – the loss of Holy Communion. It was as though the sun had suddenly gone down in the heavens, ceasing to shine upon his earthly life. Yet in this time of deep disgrace, now that many saw him as a hypocrite who had been found out – now was the time of Divine compensations. Light and grace flooded his soul with heavenly joy. So, he himself experienced the truth of the

maxim which we find in one of his letters. *“Only suffer for God, and your very sufferings will bring you Heaven on earth.”*

Like many saints he was able to cure sick people and assisted one town in particular during an epidemic. He cured many people by the sign of the Cross but also apparently raised the moral town of the place. *“Soon the whole face of the little city was changed. Scandals disappeared. The grace of God triumphed on every side...”* It’s a good reminder that epidemics and pandemics can be used by God to bring souls back to Him. And that in nearly every apparition of our Lady she asks people to do penance in reparation for sins.

*Our Lady of Fatima
“Men must amend their lives, and ask pardon for their sins. . . . They must no longer offend Our Lord, Who is already so much offended.”*

“Pray; pray very much. Make sacrifices for sinners. Many souls go to hell because no one is willing to help them with sacrifice...Say often ‘O Jesus, this is for love of thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’”

CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

With the universal Church we rejoiced to hear of the consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope Francis. This consecration had been requested by our Lady at Fatima and had twice been done before. First by Pope Pius XII in 1942 and secondly by Pope St John Paul II in 1984. It was maintained by many that neither



had been done according to our Lady’s instructions at Fatima. Whether or not it had been done properly, it certainly couldn’t hurt to try to fulfil more perfectly our Lady’s request. Like many people, we prayed a novena to our Lady of Fatima in the days preceding the consecration. Our chaplain recited the consecration prayer after Holy Mass, in union with the Bishops of the world and the Holy Father. A commentary by Bishop Athanasius Schneider says that from this consecration he would hope for the hastening of Russia’s conversion, in the sense of the *“Russian Orthodox Church being*

reunified with the Apostolic See and thus becoming truly Catholic.” The division between the Church of the East and West has lasted for 900 years and it is believed by some that our Lady of Fatima was

*Our Lady of Fatima:
“But in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me and she will be converted and the world will enjoy a period of peace...”*

predicting that Russia would return to the Catholic Church. Bishop Schneider also hopes that the Consecration *“will hasten the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which will consist in the authentic renewal of the life of the Catholic Church”*. And finally that it will hasten an era of peace for humanity. *“... true and lasting peace in human society will be established only if Christ reigns over human society.”* Let us continue to pray that the fruits of this consecration, desired by our Lady, will gradually become manifest in the Church and in the world, bringing peace especially to Russia and Ukraine.

Our Lady of Fatima also reminds us of the reality of hell and the devil. One we hope to avoid, the other we have to resist: *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7-8) Renowned exorcist Fr. Elias Vella OFM from the Archdiocese of Malta gives us some good advice. *“The sacraments are the most powerful weapons against the devil’s attacks. **The Devil fears the sacraments, especially the sacrament of penance because it directly confronts sin and the temptation to sin.** When penitents acknowledge and renounce their sin...they are rejecting the deception of the Devil who tries to entice us into thinking that our sins are not wrong...or that God would not mercifully forgive us.*

Receiving absolution deals a fatal blow to the Devil’s hold over us. That is why we must not neglect regular confession. The Eucharist is a powerful weapon against the Devil because our Lord is giving Himself to us in humility and love. These are two things that make the devil suffer. He is the opposite, full of pride and hate. ...Therefore, when we receive Our Lord in the Eucharist, or adore Him in front of the Eucharist, the Devil flees, because he cannot bear it and wants to escape. So, when there is no exorcist to help people who are disturbed, they should seek the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist.”

ADORERS OF THE SACRED HEART - MONKS

It has certainly been a year of special celebrations, for on the 10th of February was the Temporary Profession of the Rev Fr Benito and Rev Fr Bernardo, Adorers of the Sacred Heart, who are following the Charism of our Mother Foundress. Though they are closely connected to our Congregation, yet they will be a distinct order of their own. The ceremony took place quietly at our Colombian monastery and was presided over by the Vicar for Religious on behalf of Bishop Fidel Marin. The construction of their chapel too is advancing well and we pray it will soon be completed, providing a new Sanctuary where our Eucharistic Lord will be adored.



We know that (after Holy Communion) until the accidents of bread have been consumed by our natural heat, the good Jesus is with us...Delight to remain with Him. Pray to Him. Talk to Him...If while He went about in the world, the sick were healed merely by touching His clothes, how can we doubt that He will work miracles when He is within us?
St Teresa of Avila

EASTER

Holy Week and Easter this year were particularly joyful since the covid restrictions and vaccine passes were abolished. This of course meant no limits on the number of people at Masses and no more segregation of people into unvaccinated and vaccinated Masses which was certainly never a Catholic practice! On Good Friday we fully realized that the restrictions were gone, since there were so many people for the 3pm celebration of the Passion. Unfortunately, quite a lot of people could not fit in the Church, so next year we will have to provide extra chairs for the people.

Our Lady of Fatima [After showing the children a vision of hell]: “You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. It is to save them that God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace.”



Rev Fr Robert Sharplin celebrated our Easter Masses and it was with sadness that we heard of the death of his mother on Good Friday. She had often attended Mass here, and so we had come to know Noline as a lovely lady who always greeted us with a beautiful smile. It seems a special privilege to go to God on the very day of His Son's Passion and Death and we pray that she will be now be in Heaven in the company of the Angels and Saints.

ARRIVALS

On the 9th of May we welcomed M.M.Francesca from Australia, though she is from New Zealand originally, and was for many years resident of Tyburn Monastery Bombay. Flights were still rather uncertain at that time, and so we had been expecting her arrival several times before she actually came and were beginning to fail in faith that she would come at all. Thus it was a nice surprise when she really did arrive one evening, bringing welcome rain with her. For once, Australia had been receiving more rain than NZ!

AND MORE CELEBRATIONS

On the 14th of May, Mother Mary Joan made her final profession in Peru and we thank God for her perseverance in her vocation and in learning Spanish! She read her vows and sang the Suscipe beautifully.

Finally we had the glorious Silver Jubilee of Rev. M.Lucy which we here had the joy of attending in person rather than only in spirit! Rev Fr Matthews presided, giving us an encouraging homily, and he was assisted by their chaplain Rev Fr Arabati and our good friend Rev Fr Roberts. The Samoan choir sang beautifully and it was very inspiring



to see our dear Mother renew her vows after 25 years of faithful service to the Lord. Not always easy years of course, but the Lord has upheld her as she asked him to in the Suscipe sung on the day of her profession: *"Uphold me Lord, according to your promise and I shall live. Let my hope in you not be in vain."* Afterwards we enjoyed watching many Samoan dances and everyone seemed to share in the joy of this day, which was a rare sunny one, thanks be to God!



The Heart of the Divine Master is the centre on which converges everything in the Old and New Testament; the pivot around which everything in Catholicism turns. That is how I understand devotion to the Sacred Heart; it embraces everything, it is the answer to everything.
Jules Chevalier

Thanking you all for your continued support and encouragement, we ask the Sacred Heart of our Beloved Saviour Jesus Christ to bless, strengthen and uphold you and your loved ones in these challenging times. May you stay close to God and draw many others to Him by the witness of your lives. Our prayers and the Holy Mass of the Sacred Heart will be for each one of you. The Tyburn Nuns of Ngakuru.